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Dear Phil:

Many thanks for your warm letter of 22 April which I much appreciate and which I will keep.

As you probably know, the law dictates that the two top positions of the Central Intelligence Agency cannot both be occupied by persons from the military so that when the President selected Admiral Raborn to be the Director, I automatically contracted a virulent case of instant unemployment. Admiral Raborn is a mighty fine choice, and Dick Helms, whom I of course know intimately, will be a fine replacement for me, so the Agency will be in good hands.

These are a wonderful bunch of people here in the Agency and I am sorry to leave them. I have learned much from these truly professionals, of audacity, anonymity, and selfless dedication to the national interest.

You have done a very fine job for our Government under identical circumstances -- professionalism, audacity, anonymity, and selfless dedication to the national interest. You have all of our thanks for that and I know you will continue with the same high performance.

With my thanks again, and I hope our paths will continue to cross.

Faithfully yours,

/ m /

1 - Gen. Carter

- DD/S&T

1 - DDCI files (in ER)

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Orig - Adse

MSC: pec